



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 12, 2004
RESUBMITTED: August 16, 2004

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: Trapping Regulations and Technical Amendment

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

This order addresses an issue concerning bobcat harvest. There are concerns that allowing conibear type traps during the NLP bobcat trapping season may result in injury or mortality to hunting dogs, and thus increase conflicts between user groups. The change would include:

- A requirement for trappers to use foothold traps only during the December 10-December 20, private land only trapping season in Bobcat Management Units C and D. Unit C includes Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties; Unit D includes Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, and Wexford counties and Arenac county west of highway I-75 and north of highway M-61.
- The free bobcat kill tag or tags for Units C and D will be printed with a “private lands only, foothold trap only” statement.

This order also includes a technical amendment to Fall Wild Turkey Management Unit Q to include St. Clair County as originally intended.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information only at the August, 2004 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared in the August 2, 2004 Calendar and is eligible for approval on September 9, 2004. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Mindy S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 16 of 2004

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective September 9, 2004, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.608 Bobcat open seasons, season limit, closed areas, restrictions; kill tags and tagging requirements; registration requirements; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.608. (1) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping shall be October 25 to March 1 in bobcat management units A and B. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in bobcat management units A and B shall be from December 1 to March 1.

(2) A person shall not take a bobcat by means of hunting or trapping in that area of zone 2 not included in bobcat management units C and D. The hunting season in bobcat management unit C shall be from January 1 to March 1. The hunting season in bobcat management unit D shall be from January 1 to February 1. The trapping season in bobcat management units C and D shall be from December 10 to December 20, on private lands only, using foothold traps only.

(3) A person shall not take a bobcat in zone 3.

(4) The season limit shall be 2 bobcat per person except no person shall take more than 1 bobcat from bobcat management unit B, and no more than 1 bobcat in bobcat management units C and D combined.

(5) Through the last day of the open bobcat season, a person issued a fur harvester's license may obtain a free bobcat kill tag. A person who intends to hunt or trap bobcat shall request and be issued up to 2 free bobcat kill tags. A person shall not sell, loan, or permit in any manner another person to use the person's bobcat kill tag or use or attempt to use another person's bobcat kill tag. A person who kills a bobcat shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate information on the tag and attach the kill tag to the hide of the bobcat from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw of the bobcat in a secure and permanent manner. A person shall not tag a bobcat with a kill tag that is not valid for the unit in which the bobcat is taken. This kill tag shall remain attached to the bobcat until the animal is registered and sealed by the department. A person shall not possess a bobcat or bobcat hide that is not tagged with a validated kill tag unless a department seal is attached as provided by subsection (6).

(6) A person that kills a bobcat shall present the pelt and skull or pelt and an undamaged canine tooth of the bobcat to a designated department employee to be registered and sealed no later than 3 business days following March 1. The pelt shall be presented for sealing in person by the fur harvester that killed the animal and shall not be presented for sealing or registration by another person. The person presenting the bobcat pelt shall display their fur harvester license, including identification used to acquire the license, and shall provide harvest information as requested by the department employee. The department employee shall retain the skull or undamaged canine tooth and attach an official seal to the pelt of each bobcat presented for examination and shall lock the seal upon the hide in such a manner that it cannot be removed without cutting or ripping the bobcat pelt or damaging the seal. Once an official seal is attached by the department, it shall not be removed from the bobcat pelt until the bobcat pelt is processed or tanned. Subsequent to 3 business days following March 1, it shall be unlawful to possess a bobcat pelt without an official department seal attached unless the pelt has been processed or tanned or the bobcat season is open.

12.668 "Fall wild turkey management unit Q" defined.

Sec. 12.668. "Fall wild turkey management unit Q" means all of Lapeer, Genesee, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair counties.

Issued this 9th day of September, 2004.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director